



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE FAIRFAX AREA

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Privatization in Virginia: A Done Deal?

You may recall the LWVUS consensus study last spring on the growing trend toward privatizing services that have been government responsibilities in the past. LWVFA members indicated they wanted to know exactly how this was playing out in Virginia, so Wendy Fox-Grage and Beth Tudan stepped up and have given us a very readable explanation about how privatization is affecting state-wide decisions. They have concentrated on the state's public universities, the debate over the ABC stores, and the funding of the Dulles Toll Road, and by extension, other toll roads in our future. You may want to read this in the context of the consensus, especially our agreement on the need for transparency. Enjoy!

Calendar

October

- 1 *VOTER* deadline
- 3 A Woman's Place Is in the Voting
Booth – Library of Virginia
- 5 LWNCA Board meeting &
presidents' brunch
- 6 **Briefing/At-Large meeting**
- 8 Columbus Day
- 8 LWV-VA/AARP U.S. Senate debate
- 8-11 Unit meetings – Privatization in
Virginia**
- 12 Reston Community Center election
- 15 Last day to register for General
Election
- 16 Woodlake Towers election
- 17 Board meeting**
- 26 Reception for LWVUS Board in DC
- 26 Eid al-Adha
- 30 Last day to apply for absentee ballot
by mail

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Presidents' Message



The upcoming election prompted us to reflect on how lucky we are to live in a country where so many citizens have the right to vote. The League was founded just six months before women were granted that right. Over the last 92 years, we have worked to protect that right and to educate voters with impartial facts about candidates and issues on the ballot. That's why we're pleased that so many of you are registering voters and distributing **What's on the Ballot** and our voter information cards.

Like most change, extending the right to vote happened in baby steps. Today many of us are amazed that it took so long for some Americans to be given a right we consider beyond dispute.

We thought you might be interested in a brief voting rights timeline:

- **1790** Only white male property owners 21 and older can vote.
- **1850** Property ownership and tax requirements have been dropped. Most adult white males can vote.
- **1870** 15th Amendment gives former male slaves the right to vote and protects the rights of voters, regardless of race.
- **1913** 17th Amendment calls for citizens (not state legislatures) to elect U.S. Senators.
- **1920** The 19th Amendment gives women the right to vote.
- **1924** Indian Citizenship Act gives Native Americans the rights of citizenship, including the right to vote in federal elections.
- **1961** The 23rd Amendment gives DC residents the right to vote in Presidential elections.
- **1971** The 26th Amendment lowers the minimum voting age to 18.

Now that so many of us have the right to vote, the League of Women Voters is determined to protect that right and to give voters the impartial information they need to make an informed decision on Election Day. That's where we come in.

Voters appreciate our Voters Guides and candidates thank us for providing them with a way to share their ideas with

voters.

Most County residents we have met are also grateful for our handouts. When we ask if they would like some nonpartisan voter information, they usually say, "Nonpartisan? Sure!"

We know our community appreciates the League's efforts to provide impartial voter information. In the run-up to an election, we give our fellow County residents something they crave – the unbiased facts.

Thank you for helping us to do what the League does best. In volunteering with the League, we're all making a genuine contribution – one that our community definitely appreciates.

Have a wonderful month of October!

Julie and Helen

Board Meeting Notes

At its August 15 meeting, the Board made several appointments. Diane Hardcastle, Bette Hostrup and Therese Martin were appointed to the Legacy Committee for 2012-2014, and Bernice Colvard, Janey George and Kay McQuie for 2012-2013. Treasurer Bill Thomas will be an ex-officio member.

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Please e-mail address corrections to the office
or call 703-658-9150

Voter Service Outlines October Plans for Pre-Election Educational Efforts

By Olga Hernandez, Voters Service Coordinator

Voter Service is often what brings members to the League. This fall's Presidential election is a very visible time for us. It's our time to shine. The LWVFA has plans to do as many voter registration drives as possible. The units have been tasked with setting up events in their local communities. Check with your unit chair or the LWVFA office for a listing or ideas where to organize an event. All registrations drives need to take place before October 15, the registration deadline for this election. Even if folks say they are registered, encourage them to check their registration status before the close of the books.



Olga Hernandez, Rona Ackerman, Therese Martin and Julie Jones are holding voter registration materials, "hot off the presses" copies of What's on the Ballot and the Voters Card highlighting the types of IDs that voters can use at the polls.

Our "What's on the Ballot" issue was distributed at the September 8 Kick-off meeting for dissemination to the local units and the community. This is useful for registration drives to inform people about what will appear on the ballot, including the text of Virginia Constitutional Amendments and Fairfax Bond issues.

We will be publishing a Voters' Guide for this election in the Fairfax County *Times* newspapers and in the Mt. Vernon and Alexandria *Gazette* by October 26. The guide is being produced in cooperation with the five Northern Virginia Leagues. It will include the U.S. Senate race, the congressional 1st, 8th, 10th, 11th district races, the proposed Virginia Constitutional Amendments and the four proposed Fairfax bond issues.

The voter identification laws have changed in Virginia, so as part of the registration efforts we need to make sure we get the information out to voters. Therese Martin has developed a rack card listing the changes and what IDs are acceptable. Remember, in Virginia you may need an ID-- but not necessarily with a photo on it.

The state will be mailing new voter registration cards this fall, Remember, this can be used as your ID when you vote. Consider volunteering to work at the polls on Election Day--this is how we make sure democracy prevails.

A Woman's Place Is in . . . the Voting Booth! A History of the Women Suffrage Movement

Wednesday, October 3

Time: Noon-1 p.m.

Place: Lecture Hall, 800 E Broad Street, Richmond

The Library of Virginia, Maymont Foundation, and the League of Women Voters team up for a rousing rally that's sure to inspire everyone to cast their vote on Election Day! Costumed interpreters bring the struggle for woman suffrage to life as Dr. Sandra Treadway, Librarian of Virginia, describes the

victories and setbacks of the determined female citizens who sought the right to vote during the 19th and early in the 20th centuries. In addition, documents and materials related to the League of Women Voters' predecessor--the Equal Suffrage League--will be on display. This program complements our exhibition *You Have No Right: Law and Justice in Virginia*. For further information, go to their website at www.lva.virginia.gov/news/calendar or call 703-692-3500.

Domestic Violence Hotline
(703) 360-1213

AARP Virginia and League of Women Voters Host 2012 U.S. Senate Debate

AARP Virginia and the League of Women Voters of Virginia are teaming up to make sure their voices are heard during the 2012 campaign by hosting the People's Debate between Virginia's candidates for the U.S. Senate.

"For more than 25 years, non-partisan voter engagement and education has been part of AARP's mission to help Americans live their best lives," said AARP Virginia State Director Bill Kallio. "We are proud to sponsor the People's Debate because AARP informs its members and the general public about the candidates' positions on issues so they can choose candidates that best represent their views and values."

League of Women Voters of Virginia President Lynn Gordon said the October 8 debate would keep a shining light on democracy by raising awareness of the issues that confront all Virginians, encourage more citizens to become registered voters, and help increase voting participation in Virginia.

"Candidate participation in debates is akin to a job interview. Voters deserve to hear directly from the candidates where they stand on issues that matter most in their lives," Gordon said.

Kallio pointed out that winning the votes of people age 50+ will be key in the 2012 election. In the 2010 midterm election, voters age 50+ cast nearly six of every 10 votes. A quarter of all ballots cast in November 2010 came from 65+ voters. In 2008, turnout was 69 percent among voters ages 45 to 64 and 72 percent among voters 65 to 74.

AARP Virginia and the League of Women Voters of Virginia have extended Peoples Debate invitations to Republican nominee George Allen and Democrat Tim Kaine. Other candidates who, within 30 days of the event, have registered a minimum of 15 percent voter support in at least one statistically valid poll conducted by news media or another independent organization (free of ties to a political party or candidate) also will be invited to participate.

Media partners for the event are WTVR-TV (CBS) and WCVE-TV (Virginia Public Television). The media partners will distribute the debate to broadcasters statewide in order to make the forum available to voters across Virginia.

(From: AARP Virginia, <http://www.aarp.org/states/va/> June 19, 2012)

Volunteers Needed to Assist With Community Elections

Community Elections provide an important part of LWVFA's budget. Please sign up to help.

Reston Community Center (Need 4 volunteers).
Friday, October 12, 5 to 9 p.m.

Hunters Woods Plaza, Reston

Please Contact: Bill Thomas, billthomas4@gmail.com, 703-606-2397 or Rona Ackerman, ackermanrona2@gmail.com, 703-282-2262

Woodlake Towers Condominiums, Falls Church
Tuesday, October 16, 5 to 10 p.m.

Need 10 volunteers for registration and counting weighted ballots.

Please contact: Kay McQuie, kaymcquie@aol.com, (703) 765-7104 or Rona Ackerman

State Board Seeks Members to Chair Four Committees NOW!

Co-President Julie Jones has received a letter from Lynn Gordon, president of the state league asking for assistance in filling four committee chairperson at the state level. They would like to fill these four board positions ASAP.

Action Chair: attend Women's Round Tables, track legislation, send out Action Alerts

Development Chair: raise money

Organizing Chair: assist with new and existing Leagues.

Publicity Chair: write articles about LWV-VA for newspapers and online news services.

Please contact Dianne Blais dianneblais@aol.com /or 703-830-1998 for more information.

Privatization in Virginia: A Done Deal?

By Wendy Fox-Grage & Beth Henson Tudan

In March 2012, the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area read and discussed the privatization of various federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. As a follow-up to this March 2012 national study, this study focuses on the privatization of services within the state of Virginia.

On the heels of the Great Recession, state budgets have been battered. During this economic downturn, the demand for publicly funded services has increased while most state politicians have had no appetite for raising taxes to pay for these services. Because state governments are required to have balanced budgets without deficits (unlike the federal government), state policymakers must either cut services... or perhaps privatize these services. Rather than covering the watershed of privatization, this study delves into three issues that have been in the news: higher education, ABC stores, and toll roads in Virginia.

Universities in Virginia: What Would Jefferson Say?

Universities across the country are feeling the pinch of declining support from state governments for higher education, creating what some are calling a de facto privatization of the institutions. The Morrill Act of 1862 granted federal land to states to finance the creation of public universities. After World War II, the public university systems exploded with veterans returning home and taking advantage of the GI Bill. Over 2 million Americans attended college, strengthening America's middle class and economy. Post-World War II America built the world's best higher education system, spurring the growth of the U.S. economy and the middle class. Today, however, state legislatures, facing tight budgets, have been decreasing their state's contribution to higher education. As a result, tuitions have gone up, increasing 15 percent between 2008 and 2010, and increasing over 40 percent at universities in states like Georgia, Arizona and California.

State funding

For fiscal 2012 in Virginia, state support of higher education is now 30 percent lower than in 2001, putting Virginia at 38th in the nation for state and local appropriations per student. Virginia's support for higher education is much less than its neighbors North Carolina and Maryland, which ranked 10th and 11th respectively.

At the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, over 90 percent of students come from in state, whereas 69

percent of students are in-state at the University of Virginia. U.Va.'s enrollment capacity is growing about 1 percent per year, which is not keeping up with the number of qualified in-state student applicants, resulting in a drop of in-state student admissions. In 1994, 61 percent of in-state students were admitted compared with 42.4 percent in 2010. In addition, in-state students pay 63 percent of their own educational costs through tuition whereas out-of-state students pay 239 percent of their costs.

In 2012, state funding provides less than 15 percent of the operating budget at University of Virginia, the College of William and Mary and Virginia Tech. The low level of state support causes many to question what it means to be a public institution, including Katharine C. Lyall, an economist and president emeritus of the University of Wisconsin. "America is rapidly privatizing its public colleges and universities, whose mission used to be to serve the public good. But if private donors and corporations are providing much of a university's budget, then they will set the agenda, perhaps in ways the public likes and perhaps not. Public control is slipping away."

Virginia Commonwealth University raised tuition 24 percent in 2010, after trimming millions from its budget. From 1993 to 2007, the Goldwater Institute in Arizona had listed VCU as one of the most efficiently run universities in the country, recognizing it for a "45 percent increase in enrollment while it reduced administration by 75 percent. There was also a 5.5 percent decrease in the number of faculty per 100 students.

The state's largest university, George Mason, with student body enrollment of 33,000, has offset its decrease in state funding by increasing research funding from \$38 million to \$150 million. GMU doubled its private fundraising to \$52 million between 2001 and 2010.

New GMU President Angel Cabrera says, "We have less than \$60 million in our endowment, which is not sufficient for a school of this size. So the scenario is we just want to try to get our fair share of philanthropic dollars. We're in one of the most prosperous regions in the country."

Cabrera said Mason should push for more public funding as well, saying that “We get less money from Virginia on a per student basis than several of the other Virginia universities. So we need to continue to make the case that we ought to take our fair share of that.... And then we’ll have to make our case to the private donors, and say this is why you should invest in our university, and this is why the university is playing such a key role in the economic growth and prosperity of this region. Please share your hard-earned dollars with us.”

In comparison to George Mason’s \$60 million endowment, U.Va.’s is \$5.34 billion according to the 2011 Annual Report of the University of Virginia Investment Management Company.

Privatization: What does it mean to be a Public University?

If state taxpayers are paying less than 15 percent of some university’s operating budgets, what does it mean to be a state institution? Virginia taxpayers have paid over the centuries to purchase the land, build the buildings, hire professors and develop the reputations of the universities. Both U.Va. and William & Mary are held in such high regard across the country that they are nicknamed “Public Ivies.” In fact, U.Va. is ranked #25 in the nation, and ties for the #2 slot for public institutions, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. Only UC Berkeley ranks higher in public education; UCLA shares the slot with U.Va. William & Mary is ranked 33rd nationally and 6th for a public institutions.

Taylor Reveley, President of the College of William and Mary, argues since state funds are decreasing, then why not let the market decide the true cost for college tuition? Reveley advocates that wealthier in-state students pay the equivalent of out-of-state tuition. “If Virginia is to sustain its system of public education, it must be creative about how to do it,” the William & Mary president says. “I’m just deeply concerned that the money [from the state] isn’t going to be there. We’ve got to pursue other means of sustaining ourselves.”¹

Privatization is thought of by Virginia conservatives and even some moderates as a panacea for addressing the state’s budget woes while adhering to the state’s dominant anti-tax ideology. Tax hawks, for instance, constantly dodge the need for higher taxes to pay for highways by tossing the problem over to public-private partnerships. But applying the same thinking to public higher education risks undermining the very purpose of such institutions — building the highly educated middle class needed to keep Virginia competitive nationally and globally. (Galuszka, December 23, 2011)

James A. Bacon of the blog Bacon’s Rebellion writes, “If Reveley gets his way, William & Mary would take another

big step toward independence, becoming more like private, non-profit colleges that charge exorbitant fees and rebate part of them back to lower- and middle-income parents.” He continues, “Reluctantly, I conclude that Reveley’s proposal is a step in the right direction. We should be explicit, though, that the ultimate goal is to take W&M private.”²

Peter Galuszka, who also blogs at Bacon’s Rebellion, writes in the *Washington Post* that “there’s a strong undercurrent, especially among privatization-loving conservatives, to extract state funding entirely and make the schools private, like Washington & Lee or the University of Richmond or Georgetown. Doing so would be a tragedy. Strong public higher education is a major plus for the Old Dominion, which may not have taken full advantage of its situation. There would be big issues such as how taxpayers who have helped build up the schools would be repaid for their efforts. My guess: probably not at all.”

Galuszka continues, “It is true that the leaders of the top three schools helped initiate state funding cuts in a scheme to limit Richmond’s interference in their operations. Problem is, politicians like Gov. Robert F. McDonnell, who claims to be a higher-ed kind of guy, are all too happy to cut their budgets even more. Doing so hurts the state. It would suffer even more if venerable institutions such as W&M and Mr. Jefferson’s University are ever sold off and privatized.”³

In 2006, the General Assembly agreed to give the state’s top three universities fewer funds in exchange for more autonomy via a management agreement in the Higher Education Funding Act. In return, the governing boards of U.Va., William & Mary and Virginia Tech would be able to set

their own tuition, curricula, information technology, human resources, finance and capital spending programs.

By having more autonomy to set tuition and fees, the universities could increase their tuition to meet market rates of private universities. Thus, the state of Virginia would not put the institutions on the auction block, and, thus, the taxpayers would not be

Table 1 - Public VA universities with highest percent of out-of-state undergraduate students in 2010

U.Va.	33.5 percent
William & Mary	33.3 percent
Virginia State University	29 percent
James Madison University	28.4 percent
Virginia Tech	26.2 percent
Virginia Military Institute	40.2* percent

*but in a different situation because of its citizen-soldier mission

paid for the institutions themselves. The result, however, would be a de facto privatization.

UVA: A Challenge to Decision-Making

If we are now funding so little of their operating budgets, will our public universities be beholden to the Virginia state tax payer, Virginia students paying in-state tuition or students paying out-of-state tuition? What about private donors? We saw this problem manifest itself in the debate over the future of U.Va. during the attempted ouster of President Teresa Sullivan.

In 2011, Sullivan advocated for a large increase in federal and state funding for higher education. Sullivan compared the U.S. economy to a bus stuck in the mud, calling higher education an economic engine that can jump start economy. “Our competitors are investing in higher education now, and we need to do the same just to keep pace,” she told an audience at U.Va.’s Miller Center. The following spring, Board of Visitor’s Chair Helen Dragas fought for Sullivan’s ouster. A *Washington Post* article stated that Dragas wanted a leader who acted more like a corporate CEO, ready to cut unprofitable programs. No one truly knows what was behind the attempted firing of Sullivan, but funding and the future of the university were certainly at play.

A week after the announcement of Sullivan’s attempted firing, billionaire hedge fund titan, U.Va. alumnus and major donor, Paul Tudor Jones II wrote an op ed in the *Daily Progress* that President Teresa Sullivan’s “departure is a clarion call from the Board of Visitors that business as usual is not acceptable anymore.” Thus, U.Va. needed “stakeholder-driven” strategic planning and a transformative change in attitude and vision in order to compete aggressively with schools such as Yale, MIT and Stanford.⁵

The Future

Governor McDonnell has set a goal to increase the number of state residents with college degrees over the next 15 years by 100,000, with an emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education. He has also called for universities to keep their tuition and fee increases to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

State Delegate Ken Plum writes, “Some schools find themselves operating at the level of 2004 state funding when they must meet inflationary cost increases and expected student growth. ... With the governor’s support, the General Assembly did increase funding for higher education [in 2012]. While keeping tuition down is a legitimate concern of parents and students, the limitation means that efforts to expand programs and services will likely be curtailed.”⁶

As Virginia public universities feel the pinch of budget cuts from the state, they are looking for other ways to fund their institutions, including increases in tuitions and fees, and private sector and government grants and contracts to grow university research budgets. There are calls for increasing class size, switching to online classes, decreasing some departments, and selling names of departments to outside interests. Some advocate for more out-of-state students and fewer in-state students, asserting that they cannot keep pace with their peer institutions with so little funding from the state. All have launched large donor drives, leading some to question whether donors then have too much influence on the universities’ programs and future. The decreased financial support for Virginia’s institutions of higher education leads some to warn that a de facto privatization is occurring.

ABC Stores: This Isn’t the Alphabet You Learned in School

Controlled by the state, more than 330 ABC (Alcoholic Beverage Control) stores, located throughout the Commonwealth, had record sales of \$692.7 million in fiscal year 2011. ABC stores contributed more than \$1.5 billion to Virginia’s General Fund in the last five years, and more than \$6 billion to the General Fund since the first ABC stores opened in 1934.⁷

Background

According to the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association, 18 states, including Virginia, are considered control states with government monopolies over spirit sales, and 32 states are considered open license states with private-sector operations. More specifically 18 state governments control spirit sales at the wholesale level, and 13 jurisdictions

(including Virginia) also control spirit sales at the retail level.

Control states on average have fewer spirit stores, close stores earlier, and have fewer selling hours than open license states.⁸ While this control can be inconvenient to customers and considered against free market principles, the Centers for Disease Control's Community Guide by its Community Preventive Services Taskforce does not recommend privatization for states with retail control because there is evidence that privatization results in increased per capita consumption,⁹ which can have negative public health consequences, especially if there is excessive consumption.

However, in recent years, control states have begun to privatize segments of their operations.¹⁰ The Virginia governor hoped to follow this trend.

Governor's proposal

In September 2010, Governor Robert McDonnell unveiled his signature plan to privatize Virginia liquor sales to fulfill his campaign promise to fund transportation without raising taxes. His original plan would have resulted in a one-time windfall of \$458 million and then recurring revenue of \$229 million a year. The one-time windfall would have resulted from: \$33 million from selling off properties; \$160 million from wholesale license fees; and a minimum of \$265 million from auction retail licenses. The problem: This plan would not have resulted in any more annual money for the state than the current government monopoly on liquor.¹¹

The governor's plan called for a 2.5 percent tax on restaurants and bars that buy liquor directly from wholesalers instead of retailers. The plan also included a \$17.50-per-gallon excise tax--which was well above the national average for private systems and those in the District and Maryland--and a 1 percent tax on gross receipts, both charged to wholesalers. He would have allowed the number of stores selling liquor to triple to 1,000: 600 licenses to big retailers such as grocery stores; 250 licenses to convenience and drug stores; and 150 licenses to package stores.¹²

Results

Although the Virginia Privatization Coalition--a consortium of major retailers including Wal-Mart and Costco--supported it, the privatization plan failed for several reasons. Most state legislators, including many from McDonnell's own political party, did not support the plan. The restaurant and wholesaler taxes were unpopular. The tripling of retail stores led to fears of increased alcohol consumption while annual revenue was not predicted to be any more than it was under the current system.

In response, the governor issued a scaled-back, retail plan that included the removal of the unpopular restaurant tax. However, without the tax, this proposal would have left a \$47 million annual hole in the state budget.

On Feb. 8, 2011, the General Assembly let McDonnell's bills die without even a vote or a hearing. It was the biggest legislative defeat of his tenure.¹³

Toll Roads: Highway Robbery or the Highway of Life?

Descriptions

The Dulles Toll Road--Virginia State Route 267--is a 14-mile toll road that stretches from the Capital Beltway to Dulles International Airport. This toll road connects to the 14-mile privately-owned Dulles Greenway toll road, which extends into Loudoun County. The Dulles Access Road runs down the middle of the Dulles Toll Road. This road, which is in the median of Route 267, is used for travel only to and from the Dulles Airport. The new Silver Line metro tracks will run along this road. The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) operates and maintains the Dulles Toll and Access Road, and a private Australian company, Macquarie Atlas Roads, owns the Dulles Greenway as well as many other highways worldwide.

In 1984, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) built Route 267 as a toll highway because government funds were not available. In 2005, five companies submitted proposals to VDOT to privatize the toll road; the state could use the payments for transportation needs and improvements. In response, MWAA made its own proposal to take over the toll road from VDOT, including the debts as well as a commitment to build the Metro line in the median.¹⁴ In 2008, MWAA assumed its operation and maintenance. The toll road had not been paid off prior to MWAA acquiring it.

Costs

The main toll plaza at the Beltway interchange collects a \$1.50 toll in both directions for two-axle cars. Most toll booths on the exit and entrance ramps collect \$.75, but vehicles with more than two-axles are charged higher rates. \$.50 of each toll goes to the financing of the Metro line to Dulles Airport.¹⁵ Annual toll revenue was expected to be about \$94.6 million in 2011.¹⁶

Completed in 1995, the Dulles Greenway was privately built and is not a public asset. However, the original owners defaulted on their loan due to lower than projected use.¹⁷ In 2005, the Australian company acquired an interest in

Toll Road Investors Partnership II (TRIP II). Reflecting the growth in population in Loudoun County, the use of the Greenway grew from 6.3 million trips in 1996 to 21 million in 2006,¹⁸ but traffic declined from 2006 - 2010.¹⁹

The toll for two-axle cars is \$4.75 (including \$.75 for the Dulles Toll Road) at the Dulles Greenway main plaza to and from the Dulles Toll Road. Vehicles with more than two-axles are charged more. The maximum toll rises to \$5.55 during rush hours.

Controversies

Since their inception, the tolls have increased. MWAA assumed the operation of the Dulles Toll Road in 2008 and then approved a series of toll increases each year from 2010 through 2012 to fund Route 267 improvements and the rail line.²⁰ At the time of publication, MWAA proposed to increase rates to \$4.50 per trip by 2015, with a per-trip raise of \$.50 in 2013 and \$.75 per year in 2014 and 2015, primarily to fund the Silver Line construction.²¹

Toll revenue on the Greenway increased by 15.4 percent over the 2006-2009 period during four straight years of traffic declines. Although Loudoun County was one of the fastest growing counties, traffic declines occurred because of the recession and improvements along competing Route 28. In addition, traffic might decline further once the Silver Line is in operation.²²

From 2013 through 2020, Greenway tolls will likely continue to increase according to a formula equal to the greater of the consumer price index plus 1 percent, real GDP growth, or 2.8 percent. A greater increase can occur if the following three criteria are met: an independent traffic and revenue study finds that tolls will be insufficient to meet minimum coverage ratios, proposed tolls will not discourage use of the roadway, and the proposed tolls provide the operator no more than a reasonable rate of return.²³

Rep. Frank Wolf, who represents the area served by the road and a longtime critic, stated, "It's highway robbery. It's a disgrace. Everyone knows that these tolls are ripping people off, and there's not much we can do about it."²⁴

On the other hand, privatization has led to the building of the roads, road improvements, and funding of the rapid transit line. If travelers do not want to pay the fares, they can take alternate roads which are free of charge or take public transportation. During this economic downturn, the toll roads have provided much needed funding to the traffic-choked Fairfax area in order to meet increased transportation demands.

Endnotes

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Discussion Questions

The Privatization of Higher Education in Virginia

1. With state funding dwindling, should the control and influence of the state over its colleges/universities also diminish?
2. How can the state universities compensate for the loss of public funding?

3. How do these financial changes affect the future of Virginia students and the economy of Virginia?
4. Should the state of Virginia increase its funding for its institutions of higher education or should the privatization at these institutions continue?

6. Discuss his plan. Who supported it and who didn't?
7. Ultimately, why did the privatization plan fail?

The Privatization of Dulles and Greenway Toll Roads

The Privatization of Booze in the Great Commonwealth

5. Why did the governor want to privatize the sales of distilled spirits?

8. What are some pros and cons of toll roads?
9. Should the state have any controls on toll roads, such as limiting tolls to the inflation rate or eliminating tolls once the roads are paid for?

Office of Elections Praises League for Support of the Budget and Their Office

June 13, 2012

Dear Ms. George, Ms. Jones, & Ms. Kelly,

On behalf of the Electoral Board, and the Office of Elections, I am writing particularly to thank each of you and the League for the League's longstanding support, and particularly for the recent volitional testimony before the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in support of the Office of Elections' budget. Your request to increase funding for the Office of Elections to allow notice to be sent to all voters in the County regarding the election district changes, which the Office had also requested, but not been provided for the 2013 fiscal year budget, was *greatly* appreciated.

Local support from organizations such as yours is vital in furthering the mission of the Office of Elections. Like all other voter registration offices in Virginia, the Fairfax County Office of Elections receives virtually all of its operations funding from the local governing body. Budget backing from local groups, such as the League, is recognition that budgeting constraints should not be a factor in ensuring that every voter in the County has the opportunity to vote with the least amount of confusion possible.

Though your efforts were unsuccessful this year at the local level, your attempt was greatly appreciated by our Office! We are fortunate that by the Governor's direction, the Virginia State Board of Elections will be taking on the responsibility this fall to notify all

active voters in the state by sending a new voter card. While the purpose is to ensure all voters will have at least that form of identification available to conform to the new voter identification requirements, it also had the added benefit that all voters will have a voter card with all changes in districts after the past two years of redistricting, as well. As we know from past experience, voter cards sent to all voters prior to a major election tends to reduce voter confusion and problems at the polls on Election Day.

On more individual notes, Janey, knowing you recently stepped down as Co-President, my congratulations to you on your tenure as Co-President at the League of Women Voters. Your service was greatly and gratefully appreciated by the Office during your tenure. Julia, thanks for continuing, and Helen, thanks for being willing to begin, as Co-Presidents. The County is fortunate that such able civic activists are willing to serve!

Again, thank you for all your excellent, hard work on behalf of the voters of Fairfax County. We look forward, we hope, to continuing to work with each of you, as well as the League, to ensure that all voters of Fairfax County enjoy their rights in the voting process. Sincerely,

Carol Ann Coryell
Secretary
Fairfax County Office of Elections

Voter ID Legislation Declared Valid in Virginia

By Therese Martin, Voter Advocacy

Status of Voter ID legislation is still “up in the air” in many states, but no longer in Virginia for this year’s elections. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), by late August, 30 states had laws that require voters to show ID at the polls this year. Additional states had enacted voter ID laws. However, the number could change, either up or down, as the laws have gone to the Department of Justice (DOJ) for preclearance under the Voting Rights Act, and the issues have come before the courts. One of the easiest ways to check on the status of any particular state is to refer to the information found at: <http://www.ncsl.org/legislatures-elections/elections/voter-id.aspx>.

Virginia received its response to preclearance on August 20, when the DOJ pre-cleared Virginia’s SB 1 and HB 9, which set new voter identification requirements

to take effect for the November 6 elections. Actually, the legislation enacted extended the types of voter identification that could be used by voters, including the state-issued voter registration card. The reason that the legislation is termed “strict non-photo” by NCSL is that voters without one of the IDs must cast a provisional ballot on Election Day, and follow up by providing identification to their elections office by noon of the Friday after the election.

Registered voters may use one of the following types of identification to vote:

- VA voter identification card
- Valid VA driver’s license
- Military ID
- Any Federal, Virginia state or local government-issued ID card
- Valid student ID issued by any higher education institution in VA
- Valid employer-issued photo ID card
- Concealed handgun permit
- Current utility bill, bank statement, government check or paycheck showing the voter’s name and address
- Social security card (may not satisfy special federal ID requirements)

When submitting the legislation to the DOJ, Governor McDonnell issued an order that directed the SBE to work with organizations such as the League in publicizing the ID requirements and asked that new voter registration cards be sent to all registered voters before the elections this year. Look for your card in the mail. The LWVFA will be distributing information cards listing the identification requirements as part of its voters’ service activities this year. They will be available at

the unit meetings. Take a handful to distribute at community events in your area!

Unit Appreciation Time . . .

Unit Projects Raise Over \$6.000 for League Operations

Again, we thank those units that participated in a unit project effort to support the nuts and bolts operations of the League. You are true Leaguers. The League salutes you!

Mt. Vernon Day	900
Mt. Vernon Eve	375
Reston Day	691
Reston Eve	225
Springfield	<u>595</u>
Total	\$ 6,087

Bernice Colvard, Finance Director

FY2011-2012 Unit Project Proceeds

Centreville/Chantilly	\$ 1,666
Dinner	125
Fairfax Day/Vienna	330
McLean	1,180

Domestic Violence Hotline
(703) 360-1213

County Proclaims October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month with a proclamation by the Board of Supervisors September 25 and many other activities planned.

In 2012, the Domestic Violence Preventive Policy Coordinating Council (DVPPCC) of Fairfax County appointed a new administrator, Sandy Bromley, formerly with the Office for Women. She has established five work groups under the DVPPCC consisting of training, case studies, resource guides, outreach, and needs, and renamed them the DV NETWORK. Judy Helein from our committee is participating in the training group. These groups have been meeting monthly and are very active. The DV NETWORK held a special session, breakfast with Judge Thomas P. Mann of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, in September when all members of the DVPPCC were invited.

At the League May unit meetings, there were questions about the U-Visa. See the article by Sheila Iskra, Domestic Violence committee member, giving more information about the U-Visa in Fairfax County.

Another question that surfaced frequently during unit meetings concerned whether or not a protective order issued in one state would be honored by other states. The answer is that Federal law requires that a protective order from one state be honored in all 50 states. If a plaintiff moves from another state with a protective order, it is recommended she (or he) keep a copy and have it available if it is needed to show law enforcement. They may also want to give a copy to local law enforcement for their files.

The Domestic Violence Committee welcomes any members who wish to join our efforts. We anticipate a busy year updating even more about domestic violence in our community.

Barbara Nunes, Chair, Domestic Violence Committee
703-451-7238 email: bnunes@juno.com

U-VISA and Other Relief for Victims of Domestic Violence

By Sheila Iskra, Domestic Violence Committee

First form of relief: U-VISA

In October 2000, Congress passed a law creating a new visa (U-VISA), which is available for undocumented immigrants who are victims of a crime or cooperate with authorities investigating crimes.

It provides 10,000 U-Visas per year to persons who:

1. Have suffered substantial physical or mental abuse as a result of having been a victim of qualified criminal activity¹.
2. Have knowledge of the details of a qualifying criminal activity.
3. Have been and are helpful in providing information to the prosecution of qualified criminal activity.
4. The qualified criminal activity must have occurred in the U.S., U.S. territories or possessions.

In Fairfax County, the form (a U-Visa status certification) is submitted, usually by their lawyer, to the Sheriff's Department Victim Services Specialist who verifies the crime and their cooperation with authorities. The Specialist then forwards form to the department supervisor for approval. If approved, the form is returned to their lawyer who then submits documentation to Homeland Security for final approval. Once the U-Visa is approved, the undocumented immigrant can apply for lawful permanent residence.

Since January 2012, there have been 100 requests submitted to the Fairfax County's Sheriff's Department but it is not known how many are domestic violence related. U-Visa applicants are waiting up to more than one year to receive U-Visa and work authorization.

Second form of relief: i360

This form can be submitted to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) two ways: An undocumented immigrant can submit the i360 during immigration removal proceedings or prior to any legal proceedings they can submit i360 directly to DHS. If approved, an alien will receive a visa and then can apply for lawful permanent resident status.

Eligibility:

1. Alien or their child/ren who have been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty in the U.S. by their U.S. citizen, or lawful permanent resident, spouse or parent.
2. Prior to service of the Notice to Appear, alien must have 3 years of continuous physical presence in the U.S.; **or** 3 years prior to application, of not having committed certain crimes.
3. Alien has demonstrated good moral character.
4. Alien has to establish that their removal would result in extreme hardship to themselves or child.
5. If alien is a child, their removal would result in extreme hardship to themselves or parent.

If i360 is denied, the alien can then return to court and request “Cancellation of Removal”.

Third form of relief: Cancellation of Removal

This request is to a federal immigration judge during removal proceedings after i360 has been denied or if an alien does not file an i360 (rare occurrence). The eligibility is the same as those for the i360. The judge will then decide whether to approve or disapprove according to criteria – i.e.: good

moral character; removal would result in extreme hardship; not convicted of an aggravated felony; establishes they are deserving of this relief.

If “cancellation of removal” is approved by judge, the government attorney can appeal decision to the Board of Immigration Appeal (BIA). Conversely, alien can appeal an adverse decision to the BIA. Once again, if request is approved, alien is granted a visa and can apply for lawful permanent residence status.

Nationally, Federal Judges are limited to 4,000 “Cancellation of Removals” per year.

Endnote

- 1 “Qualified Criminal Activity” – Includes one or more of the following or similar activities in violation of federal, state or local criminal laws: blackmail; domestic violence; abduction; extortion; false imprisonment; felonious assault; female genital mutilation; incest; prostitution; rape; trafficking; torture; perjury; slave trade; witness tampering or attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit any of these crimes.

About the Human Services Council - I’m Glad You Asked . . .

Baba Freeman, Liaison for Human Services

The Human Services Council was created in 1988 [Jack Herrity was the chairman, J H Lambert the county executive, remember them?] to provide advice to the Board of Supervisors over the entire range of human services needs and resources to meet those needs in Fairfax County. According to its bylaws, the Council is required, among other things, to: “review needs, assess effectiveness, report annually, enhance coordination between public and private providers, and recommend annual service delivery goals, objectives and priorities.” Members, two from each magisterial district, are appointed for four-year terms and may, indeed do, continue at the supervisor’s pleasure.

The principal work of the Council begins with each year’s budget. The Council gets the County Executive’s Advertised Budget [with a presentation by himself the evening after it has been presented to the Supervisors] and goes to work. In the next weeks the Council invites the several heads--and directors and staff of the agencies--of the County’s boards, authorities, and commissions. [If you see the term ‘BACs’,

that’s who they mean]. Fifteen of the BACs come under the human services heading. The list indicates the scope of the human services activities in the County, which all lobby the Supervisors for money. The Council helps the Supervisors to sort out and prioritize these demands from a more objective citizen point of view considering the entire range of human services needs than they will hear from the various single-interest suppliants. [There is a rather jaundiced view held by some that, despite the existence of these numerous citizens’ groups, the County makes decisions based on staff recommendations.]

County government agencies in the area of human services under the Deputy County Executive of Human Services are: the Department of Family Services; the Department of Housing and Community Development; the Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court, the Health Department; the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board; and the Department of Community & Recreation Services.

The County Executive’s Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 budget, the “Advertised Budget” proposed cuts in human services

agencies that bring the total for health and welfare to 11.2 percent of a total of \$3,521,348,574 [that's billions] The budget for FY 2013 was approved by the Supervisors in April [with testimony from LWVFA], for \$3,612,720,767. Besides the revenue from the County taxes and fees, for FY 2012 there was \$128M of state and federal money, all of which is channeled through Richmond.

As the fiscal year developed it became evident that the Community Services Board (CSB) (which is a principal provider of mental health, substance abuse, and developmental disabilities support services, and which is a separately state-appointed agency for Falls Church, Fairfax City, and Fairfax County) was facing a serious shortfall of more than \$9 million in the FY2013 budget, in large part due to a lack of funding from Virginia. The Council was directed by the Board to obtain input from the community

and collaborate with the CSB to identify areas of community consensus that would address the budget situation. After a series of meetings attended by an estimated 250 people, the Council collected statements from 85 former or current service recipients, their family members, advisory group representatives, city representatives, and county-funded contract service providers. There were also 300 comments to an online survey, plus 25 letters.

The Council letter to the Board stressed the state's culpability and the importance of preventing future higher costs, but accepted the necessity of cuts in services, recognizing the impact on individuals and their families. This means, for example, that a parent may have to quit a paying job in order to care for a child with disabilities, or a teen in a fragile emotional condition may have to wait longer for admission to a program. While the language may be formal, the members of the Council will frequently articulate realities.

Dogfish Head Ale House Fundraiser a Huge Success

On August 21, the Dogfish Head Ale House donated 15 percent of their proceeds to the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area. The restaurant's donation plus the income from the raffles and the M&M Guess amounted to \$1,934.73. In addition, voter registration materials and League information were available to restaurant patrons. Thank you to Sheilah Musselman for once again organizing this successful event.

The League is also grateful to the donors of the raffle prizes.

- Brooke Rental Center – four Washington Nationals baseball tickets and parking.
- Washington Capitals – certified autographed player card.
- Joe Gibbs Racing – signed Joe Gibbs' book, *Game Plan for Life*, two caps and two autographed driver cards.
- Sheilah Musselman – two bottles of wine, burgundy and gold, commemorating the Washington Redskins' 50th anniversary.

Thank you also to League members, Judy Helein, Marion Brown, Olga Hernandez, Dianne Blais, Julie Jones, Charleen Deasy and Sheilah Musselman for staffing the League table. And last, but not least, a big thank you to all who came and enjoyed a delicious meal and good company.

County Committee Monitors HAZMAT Activities

By Dianne Blais, LWVFA representative

Every other month the Fairfax Joint Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meets for about an hour. Two major topics are discussed: HAZMAT accidents and updates on the reporting system. Fairfax's reporting system is a model system (that has won awards) to keep track of all chemicals in the county so that as emergency crews are



responding to accidents they can get a complete report about the amount and type of chemical,

where it is stored, etc. The system shows maps and effects of wind speed, etc.

The LWVFA and the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations representatives are currently the only two volunteer members on the committee. The other 43 members represent various county government agencies and numerous companies. Paula Woodrum of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department is the committee's main staff person. Fairfax County has information about the LEPC at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2005/05167.htm> and a link to the video 'Shelter in Place.' For more info go the LEPC website <http://www.lepcfairfax.org/aboutus.htm>

This Month's Unit Meeting Locations

Topic: Privatization in Virginia: A Done Deal?

Members and visitors are encouraged to attend any meeting convenient for them, including the "At Large Meeting" and briefing on Saturdays when a briefing is listed. As of September 10, 2012, the locations were correct; please use phone numbers to verify sites and advise of your intent to attend. Some meetings at restaurants may need reservations.

Saturday, October 6

11:30 a.m. At-Large Unit and Briefing

Packard Center
4026 Hummer Rd.
Annandale 22003
Contact: Wendy, 703-319-4114 or
Beth, 703-937-3937

Monday, October 8

1:30 p.m. Greenspring (GSP)

Hunters Crossing Classroom
Spring Village Drive
Springfield 22150
Contact: Kay, 703-644-2670

Tuesday, October 9

10:30 a.m. Centreville-Chantilly (CC)

Sully District Gov. Center
4900 Stonecroft Blvd.
Chantilly, 20151
Contact: Olga, 703-815-1897

Wednesday, October 10

9:30 a.m. Mt. Vernon Day (MVD)

Mt. Vernon Dist. Government Center
2511 Parkers Lane
Alexandria 22306
Contact: Joan, 703-765-0799

9:30 a.m. McLean (MCL)

Star Nut Gourmet
1445 Laughlin Ave.
McLean 22101
Contact: Peggy, 703-532-4417 or
Sharone, 703-734-1048

10 a.m. Fairfax Station (FXS)

8739 Cuttermille Pl.
Springfield 22153
Contact: Kathleen, 703-644-1555

6:15 p.m. Dinner Unit (DU)

Yen Cheng Restaurant
Main Street Center
9992 Main Street 22030
Contact: Tin, 703-207-4669

7:30 p.m. Reston Evening (RE)

Reston Art Gallery at Heron House
Lake Anne Village Center,
Reston 20190
Contact: Lucy, 703-757-5893

Thursday, October 11

9 a.m. Reston Day (RD)

12100 Stirrup Rd.
Reston 20191
Contact: Mia, 703-716-4540

9:30 a.m. Springfield (SPF)

7827 Anson Ct.
West Springfield 22151
Contact: Nancy, 703-256-6570 or
Peg, 703-256-9420

1 p.m. Fairfax City/Vienna (FX-V)

Oakton Regional Library
10304 Lynnhaven Pl.
Oakton 22124
Contact: Bobby, 703-938-1486 or
Liz, 703-281-3380

7:45 p.m. Mt. Vernon Evening (MVE)

Paul Spring Retirement Community
Mt. Vernon Room
7116 Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria 22307
Contact: Jane, 703-960-6820

November Meetings:

Virtual Learning



The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA)
4026-B Hummer Road, Annandale, VA 22003-2403
703-658-9150. Web address: www.lwv-fairfax.org

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The LWVFA Fairfax VOTER®

October, 2012

Julie Jones, Co-President

Helen Kelly, Co-President

Ron Page, Editor

Liz Brooke, Coordinator

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the public to play an informed and active role in government. At the local, state, regional and national levels, the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any citizen of voting age, male or female, may become a member.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office, or political parties, and any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.

LWVFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Dues year is July 1 through June 30. Current dues year ends June 30, 2013.)

Membership Category: Individual \$65 ____; Household (2 persons–1 VOTER) \$90 ____; Donation \$ ____
Student \$32.50 ____; (Coll. Attending ____)

Membership is: New ____; Renewal ____; Reinstate ____; Subsidy Requested ____

We value membership. A subsidy fund is available, check block above and include whatever you can afford.

Dues are not tax deductible. Tax-deductible donations must be written on a separate check payable to LWVFA Ed. Fund.

Please Print Clearly!

Name _____ **Unit** _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip + 4** _____

Phone (H) _____ **(M)** _____ **E-Mail** _____

Thank you for checking off your interests:

<input type="checkbox"/> County Govt	<input type="checkbox"/> Voting Procedures	<input type="checkbox"/> Health Care	<input type="checkbox"/> Schools
<input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Human Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Libraries	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Judicial Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> Affordable Housing
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Problems	<input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence

Mail to: LWVFA, 4026-B Hummer Road, Annandale, VA 22003-2403